

Negligence Is Cited in Arsenal Death

Negligence was a contributing factor in the death of Wilmer E. Hartley, 36 of 1520 S. Chicago St., on May 16, at Joliet Arsenal, a coroner's jury reported, Monday.

The inquest into Hartley's death was conducted by Coroner Willard A. Blood in the Will county court house.

Hartley died from a respiratory failure due to a broken neck accidentally received when he touched a high tension wire while working on a pipe and fell 20 feet to the ground, the jurors determined.

THE ACCIDENT was at the U. S. Rubber Co. plant division of the Arsenal, in Channahon township.

According to the jury's investigation, workmen working on the pipes believed there was no current in the wires carrying 440 volts of electricity. Both the pipe and wire were wet at the time.

Jurors found that there was "negligence in this case" and that the current was on when it shouldn't have been.

The jurors recommended that Arsenal authorities continue the investigation and make a complete report to Coroner Blood (to determine responsibility) concerning Hartley's fatal accident.